United Nations S/PRST/2016/10

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 July 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7742nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 July 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls all its previous resolutions and the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon. The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon.

"The Security Council stresses that the election of a President, the formation of a unity government and the election of a parliament by May 2017 are critical for Lebanon's stability and resilience to withstand regional challenges.

"The Security Council underscores in this regard in the strongest possible terms its deepest concern over the two-year-long vacancy in the presidency of Lebanon since the expiration of the mandate of former President Michel Sleiman on 24 May 2014. The Security Council further expresses deep concern at the Parliament's repeated inability to form a quorum and elect a President. The Security Council underlines that this prolonged vacancy has led to blockages in the Council of Ministers and rendered the Parliament incapable of passing critical legislation. The Security Council further stresses that the vacancy and the resulting political paralysis seriously impair Lebanon's ability to address the growing security, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing the country.

"The Security Council urges Lebanese leaders to adhere to Lebanon's Constitution and National Pact and calls on all parties to act responsibly, put Lebanon's stability and national interests ahead of partisan politics and show the necessary flexibility and sense of urgency to apply mechanisms provided for by the Lebanese Constitution with regard to the election.

"The Security Council reaffirms its call on all Lebanese leaders to act with leadership and flexibility to convene urgently a parliamentary session and proceed to the election of a President. The Security Council calls on all Lebanese parties, including in the Parliament, to apply mechanisms provided for by the Lebanese Constitution with regard to the presidential election. The Security Council further calls on all parties to engage in negotiating a

Please recycle

compromise agreement with the aim of ending the political and institutional crisis in Lebanon.

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts of Prime Minister Tammam Salam to govern under increasingly difficult circumstances and calls on all parties in Lebanon to enable the Government to function effectively. The Council is, however, deeply concerned about the inability of the Government to take key decisions and calls on the political leadership in Lebanon to stand together in the national interest despite their political differences.

"The Security Council also commended the Government of Lebanon for the timely holding of local elections and further encouraged the Lebanese authorities to move ahead within the set calendar for the next legislative elections.

"The Security Council encourages all parties in Lebanon to demonstrate renewed unity and determination to resist a slide into violence and conflict. The Council stresses the importance of enhanced messages of moderation by Lebanon's leaders, including intensified dialogues and calls to defuse sectarian tensions.

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms acts of terrorism on Lebanese territory, and commends the Lebanese Armed and Security Forces for their commitment and critical role played in preventing and combating terrorism within Lebanon. The members of the Security Council reiterated in this regard their call for the continuation of international support for the Lebanese Armed Forces through additional and expedited assistance in areas where the Lebanese Armed Forces are most critically in need of support, including counterterrorism and border protection.

"The Security Council underscores its previous calls on all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation and to cease any involvement in the Syrian crisis, consistent with their commitment in the ministerial declaration of the current Government and in the Baabda Declaration of 12 June 2012.

"The Security Council affirms that the preservation of Lebanon's stability is essential to regional stability and security. It encourages regional partners to engage constructively in resolving the presidential vacancy and preventing the spill-over of regional crises into Lebanon, and it encourages the international community to continue supporting Lebanon's political and economic stability, including through the continued provision of assistance.

"The Security Council is in this regard gravely concerned by the impact of hosting over 1,000,000 Syrian refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Lebanon, which represents more refugees per capita than any other country, and its impact on host communities, on the stability and security of Lebanon and the wider region. The Security Council underscores that support to Lebanon's efforts to manage the impact of the influx of refugees, including on essential services such as education and health, is crucial to preserving Lebanon's stability and security. The Council acknowledges the extraordinary challenges Lebanon and the Lebanese people continue to face in this regard and Lebanon's efforts to host,

assist and protect those refugees and the importance of upholding human rights and humanitarian principles.

"In this regard, the Security Council commends the Statement of Intent presented by Lebanon at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in February 2016 and encourages its full implementation to support Lebanon's stability. The Security Council in this regard commends donors for their disbursement of funds to date and calls on others to fulfill their pledges of support.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the International Support Group for Lebanon and urges the Group to continue its work in coordination with the Special Coordinator to seek opportunities to help address rising challenges to Lebanon's security and stability. It welcomes the proposal made by the President of France on 16 April 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon to organize a ministerial meeting of the International Support Group for Lebanon. The Security Council encourages the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, in the context of her good offices role and in close coordination with the ISG members, to conduct intensified contacts with Lebanon's partners, to convey the above messages, and engage key national and regional stakeholders with the aim of helping Lebanon towards a solution to the presidential vacancy. The Security Council further requests the Secretary-General to provide updates on the presidential vacancy and its impact on Lebanese institutions in subsequent reports on Lebanon."

United Nations S/PRST/2016/11

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7749th meeting of the Security Council, held on 28 July 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council takes note of the report (S/2016/566) of the Secretary General on the United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and welcomes the briefing on 11 July 2016 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed ibn Chambas.

"The Security Council welcomes the merger of the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) and United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and encourages the Special Representative to take necessary steps for further progress in the merger and to maximize synergies by ensuring a unified management and structure of the new United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).In this regards, the Security Council welcomes the establishment by UNOWAS of a liaison cell in Nouakchott, Mauritania, and a coordination and regional partnerships section in Dakar, Senegal, in order to strengthen United Nations engagement with subregional and regional organization, including the Permanent Secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel).

"The Security Council expresses full support to the Special Representative and looks forward to enhance ongoing activities undertaken by UNOWAS in the areas of good offices, subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, as well as the promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender mainstreaming.

"The Security Council welcomes the recent positive political developments in West Africa, in particular the holding of free and peaceful elections in Niger, Benin and Cabo Verde. The Security Council stresses the importance of the upcoming elections in Ghana and The Gambia to be free, fair, peaceful, inclusive and credible, and further stresses the need to closely follow these processes with great attention. The security council takes note of the Communique adopted by ECOWAS Summit in June 2016 which commended Gambia's political stakeholders for the signing, on 20 April 2016, of an agreement to hold free elections and encouraged the Gambian

Government and Parliament to initiate the requisite reforms for the conduct of inclusive, free and credible elections while urging the security forces to refrain from the use of excessive force against the citizens and adopt a responsible approach. The Security Council takes note of the statements by relevant organs of African Union and United Nations on the events of 14 and 16 April 2016 in The Gambia. In this regard, the Security Council welcomes the continued engagement of UNOWAS, ECOWAS and the African Union.

"The Security Council expresses concern over the latest political development in Guinea-Bissau and encourages national actors to abide by the Constitution and the rule of law, while striving to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

"The Security Council welcomes the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region. They encourage further collaboration between Member States, regional and subregional organizations and relevant United Nations entities to enhance social cohesion and to address challenges to good governance.

"The Security Council commends the engagement of UNOWAS with subregional and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the G-5 Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Mano River Union, in order to promote peace and stability in West Africa and the Sahel.

"The Security Council notes the collaboration undertaken between UNOWAS and the Peacebuilding Commission and encourages continued close and effective cooperation in in support of sustainable peace in the region.

"The Security Council strongly condemns all terrorist attacks carried out in the region, in particular in the Lake Chad Basin region, notably by Boko Haram, as well as in Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and the Sahel region. The Security Council stresses the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The Security Council expresses particular concern about attacks on civilians, who are the main victims of these attacks.

"The Security Council welcomes the subregional and regional and international efforts to mitigate the security, humanitarian and development consequences of these attacks. The Security Council takes note of the progress made in the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The Security Council urges the Members States participating in the MNJTF to further enhance regional military cooperation and coordination, deny safe haven to Boko Haram, allow humanitarian access and facilitate the restoration of the rule of law in liberated areas. The Security Council reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council encourages Member States, multilateral and bilateral partners to lend their support to the MNJTF to ensure its full and prompt operationalization, including the provision of modalities to increase

the timely and effective exchange of intelligence to further the region's collective efforts to combat Boko Haram. The Security Council underscores the importance of a holistic approach to degrade and defeat Boko Haram that includes coordinated security operations, conducted in accordance with applicable international law, as well as enhanced civilian efforts to improve governance and promote economic growth in the affected areas.

"The Security Council expresses concern about piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the trafficking of drugs and other illicit goods, as well as the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking and stresses the need to strengthen the fight against criminal activities in the subregion.

"The Security Council expresses strong support to the States in the region affected by the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, emphasizes the need to step up coordination of efforts in order to strengthen an effective multidimensional response to these common challenges and stresses that addressing both smuggling of migrants and human trafficking requires a coordinated, multidimensional approach with States of origin, of transit, and of destination.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS, as well as of Member States in West Africa and the Sahel to strengthen border security and regional cooperation, including through the G5 Sahel and the Nouakchott process on the enhancement of the security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel and Sahara region and in this regard welcomes the decision taken by the Defense Ministers of the Sahel-Saharan community to establish a new counter-terrorism center with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, and called on them to further enhance their cooperation in this regard.

"The Security Council remains committed to working closely with the African Union, ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the G5 Sahel to strengthen subregional and regional cooperation to address cross-border security threats and prevent the spread of terrorism. In that respect, they welcome the assistance of UNOWAS to the efforts of ECOWAS Commission to implement its Regional Framework for Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Governance and to promote a coordinated SSR approach in the region.

"The Security Council takes note of the ongoing strengthening of the cooperation between the United Nations presences in West Africa. In this regard, they welcome the biannual meetings of West Africa-based United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions, the most recent of which was held in Dakar on 20 May 2016 where the Heads of Mission agreed to continue to cooperate closely and share information on key issues affecting West Africa and the Sahel.

"The Security Council reiterates deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation caused by the activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region. In this regard, the Security Council calls international community to immediately support the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance for the people most affected by the crisis in Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria,

including by fulfilling the United Nations appeal for the Lake Chad Basin region.

"The Security Council commends the Special Representative for its participation in the briefing on "Peace and Security in Africa: Challenges of the Sahel Region" that was held on May 26th, encourages further progress by the United Nations system and its partners towards the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), including through support to the Group of 5 for the Sahel (G5), in order to assist in addressing the security and political challenges to the stability and development of the Sahel region and reaffirms its continued commitment to address such challenges, which are interrelated with humanitarian and development issues as well as the adverse effects of climate and ecological changes.

"The Security Council looks forward to the conclusion of the evaluation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, requests UNOWAS to coordinate with States in the Sahel and all other stakeholders to present concrete recommendations and lessons learned from the evaluation process and emphasized the need for the outcome of such evaluation lead to a refocused strategy and better coordination to ensure its effective implementation across the three pillars, namely governance, security and resilience. The Security Council expresses its intention to periodically monitor progress made in this regard.

"The Security Council welcomes the success achieved by countries of the region in the fight against Ebola and reiterates its concern about the humanitarian, social and economic consequences of this disease.

"The Security Council expresses support and solidarity to the affected countries and calls them to strengthen the early warning mechanisms and resilience of their national health systems in this regard."

United Nations S/PRST/2016/12

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7750th meeting of the Security Council, held on 28 July 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolutions and the statements of its President on peacebuilding, in particular S/PRST/2010/7, S/PRST/2011/2, S/PRST/2012/29, S/PRST/2015/2, S/PRST/2016/8 and S/RES/2282(2016), and stresses the importance of institution-building as a critical component of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa, which requires comprehensive approaches bearing in mind African countries' national development strategies.

"The Security Council recognizes that peacebuilding is an inherently political process aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, recurrence or continuation of conflict, and further recognizes that peacebuilding encompasses a wide range of political, developmental, and human rights programmes and mechanisms.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders and underlines the importance, in this regard, of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account and further reaffirms the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace.

"The Security Council recognizes the critical role of the African Union in peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Africa, and commends the efforts of the African countries, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities in this regard. The Security Council reiterates that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations is critical to contributing to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and further stresses the importance of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations. The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General both through United Nations Office to the African Union and consistent with its Resolution 2282 (2016), the Peacebuilding Support Office, to commence holding regular exchanges, joint initiatives, and information sharing with the African Union Commission. The Security

Council welcomes various fora for dialogue among national governments, the African Union, civil societies and other relevant actors, including beyond the United Nations.

"The Security Council recognizes that African initiatives in peacebuilding, notably the AU policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) and African Solidarity Initiative (ASI), could provide opportunities for the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union to increase synergies and ensure the coherence and complementarity in their peacebuilding efforts in Africa. The Security Council takes note in this regard of the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063 and its first 10 year implementation plan, which outlines key African flagship projects, fast track programs, priority areas, specific targets, and African strategies and policy measures at all levels.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of long-term national capacity development through institution-building, human resource development and confidence-building among the national actors, which are key to sustaining peace. The Security Council recognizes that an integrated and coherent approach among relevant political, security and developmental actors, within and outside of the United Nations system, consistent with their respective mandates and the Charter of the United Nations, is critical to achieve these ends. The Security Council calls upon the United Nations system, and invites Member States, to assist African countries emerging from conflict, upon their request, in pursuit of global development and win-win cooperation.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of addressing the root causes of conflicts throughout the process of peacebuilding, as well as ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development. In particular, the Security Council underlines the importance of socio-economic development for sustaining peace in Africa through economic development including transnational and trans-regional infrastructure development, industrialization, job creation, agricultural modernization and promotion of entrepreneurship. In this regard, the Security Council also underscores the importance of the rule of law in support of socio-economic development. The Security Council also notes that AU PCRD highlights the need for undertaking comprehensive institution-building to enhance good economic governance through the reinforcement of fiscal and financial management institutions in support of effective revenue collection, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and anti-corruption structures to ensure accountability and transparency. The Security Council stresses the importance of strengthening public-private partnerships and political commitments to reinforce such efforts.

"The Security Council, while welcoming the statement by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 29 March 2016 stating that the Ebola situation in West Africa no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern, reiterates its concern about economic, social and humanitarian consequences of this virus disease and underlines the importance of promoting long term human and institutional capacity building to build strong national health systems. The Security Council supports current efforts and underscores

the need to strengthen the global health architecture, including inter alia through the implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) and its Health Emergencies Programme, in order to better respond to public health emergencies, as well as for promoting strong, sustainable and responsive health systems for better preparedness and prevention.

"The Security Council encourages those who drive the efforts on peacebuilding to take the necessary steps to ensure that women are equally engaged in the process of peacebuilding. The Security Council underscores the need to empower women to do so by such means as increasing representation of women at all decision-making levels at local, national, regional and international institutions and through mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict and mediation, and to consider gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace. The Security Council further welcomes the efforts of Member States to implement Resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions, in particular its Resolution 2242 (2015).

"The Security Council calls on all relevant actors to engage in long term capacity building to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth and discourage their participation in acts of violence and terrorism. The Security Council further stresses the importance of promoting policies and adopting tailored approaches for youth that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts, including social and economic development, supporting projects designed to grow local economies, and providing youth employment opportunities and vocational training, fostering their quality education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and constructive political engagement. The Security Council recognizes that such efforts contribute to countering recruitment to violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and promoting social inclusion and cohesion, making the society more resistant to radicalization to violence.

"The Security Council stresses the potential benefit of taking such innovative approaches as the use of science and technology, which can play a key role in support of sustaining peace, economic growth, sustainable development and national capacity building through institution-building in Africa. The Security Council appreciates the efforts to develop and apply relevant technologies to activities such as elections management, border control, and the prevention of disease outbreak, among others. The Security Council stresses the need for strengthening capacity of relevant institutions at local, national, regional and international levels through further innovation, including digital connectivity through improved Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and enhanced access to energy.

"The Security Council recalls its Resolution 2282 (2016), and welcomes the valuable work undertaken by the Peacebuilding Fund. The Security Council reaffirms the importance of the advisory functions of the Peacebuilding Commission and requests it to further consider and share good practices on institution-building for sustaining peace in Africa. The Security Council reaffirms the importance of strengthening coordination, coherence and cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission.

"The Security Council emphasizes the need for predictable and sustained financing to United Nations peacebuilding activities, including through

increased contributions, and strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, while also noting the significance that non-monetary contributions can play in peacebuilding efforts, taking into account the need to ensure transparency, accountability and appropriate monitoring of funds.

"The Security Council recalls the General Assembly's decision to invite the Secretary General to report to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, at least sixty days prior to the high-level meeting on "Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace", on efforts to implement its Resolution 2282 (2016). The Security Council further recalls the Secretary-General's suggestion to provide an oral briefing to the Security Council no later than December 2016."